



Media Release

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Community Theater Groups Form Statewide Association

With guidance from the DHS Division of Volunteerism, representatives of community theaters throughout the state have been working on the framework for a statewide organization.

The DOV partnered with the Arkansas Arts Council and three local nonprofit theater groups (The Weekend Theater, Community Theatre of Little Rock and Royal Players) to form a Focus Group. Last fall, the members distributed the first statewide directory of community theaters and held a "Building an Association" Planning Meeting that resulted in the formation of a Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee, with representation from community groups across the state and the DOV, will be holding the first annual meeting of the Arkansas Community Theater Association (ARCTA) on Saturday, August 2, 2008.

The Rialto Community Arts Center in Morrilton will host the one-day event that includes a business meeting, workshops, entertainment and lunch. Eugene Irby and Tom Cowley from the American Association of Community Theater, who have provided technical assistance to the committee in its effort to develop a formal association, are special guest presenters.

The DOV's involvement with this project mirrors one of its purposes: to promote and support volunteerism by offering technical assistance to groups that work with volunteers and volunteer programs. Arts organizations can face the same challenges that other nonprofits might experience.

For more information about ARCTA or the annual meeting, contact Rebecca Burton, DHS Division of Volunteerism, PO Box 1437, Slot S-230, Little Rock, AR 72203-1437, or call 501- 682-7540. To learn more about the DHS Division of Volunteerism, visit the website:

<http://www.arkansas.gov/dhs/adov>.